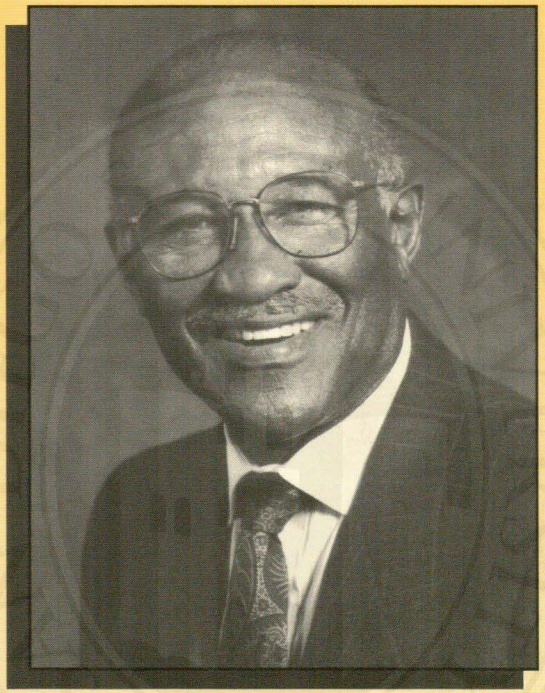
[ms-0398.030.014.002]

Tribute to Leon L. Williams



Friday, February 24, Nineteen Ninety-Five

Honorary Co-Hosts

Governor Pete Wilson
Mayor Susan Golding
Supervisor Dianne Jacob

Co-Hosts

Michel Anderson
Larry Cushman
Carl Hargraves
Tom Hom
William Jones
Tawfiq Khoury
David Malcolm
Pat McQuater
Chris Miller
John Miller
Randa Trapp
Dr. Monroe Trout
Hon. Juan Vargas
Hon. Shirley Weber
Alan Ziegaus

Tribute to Leon L. Williams

Friday, February 24, Nineteen Ninety-Five

6:00 pm	***Registration***	Grande Ballroom Foyer
	Cocktail Hour	
6:45 pm	***Seating & Dinner***	Grande Ballroom
8:00 pm	***Evening Program***	
	Welcome	Tawfiq Khoury Chair, Leon L. Williams Foundation
	Opening Songs	The San Diego School of Creative & Performing Arts Choral Ensemble Mrs. Gail McKinney, Director
	Special Guest	Governor Pete Wilson
	Guest Speakers	Supervisor Dianne Jacob Chair, Board of Supervisors
		Supervisor Ron Roberts Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors
		William Jones CEO, CityLink Investment Corp.
		Wesley Pratt, Esq. Partner, Kemp & Pratt
		Patricia McQuater Attorney, Solar Turbines
		Jimmie Slack CEO, Leon L. Williams Foundation
	Honoree	Leon L. Williams
	Closing Songs	Choral Ensemble

State of California
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
SACRAMENTO 95814

PETE WILSON
GOVERNOR

TELEPHONE
(916) 445-2841

TO: LEON WILLIAMS

I'm delighted to extend my best regards as you celebrate your retirement after a lifetime of service to San Diego and California.

As Mayor, I had the great pleasure of working with you back in the early days when we tried to create a new vision for this city. With the benefit of one of the most attractive locations on earth and a people as friendly as they get, San Diego has become a powerhouse of business, a mecca for tourists, a center for the arts and humanities and, simply a great place to call home.

Leon, you have been an integral part of the effort to make San Diego what it is today, and in the process you have earned the respect and admiration of all who are familiar with your work. You should take great pride in knowing that, as a civic leader and consensus-builder, you have helped make our system of government more responsive to its constituents and our state a safer and more prosperous place to live.

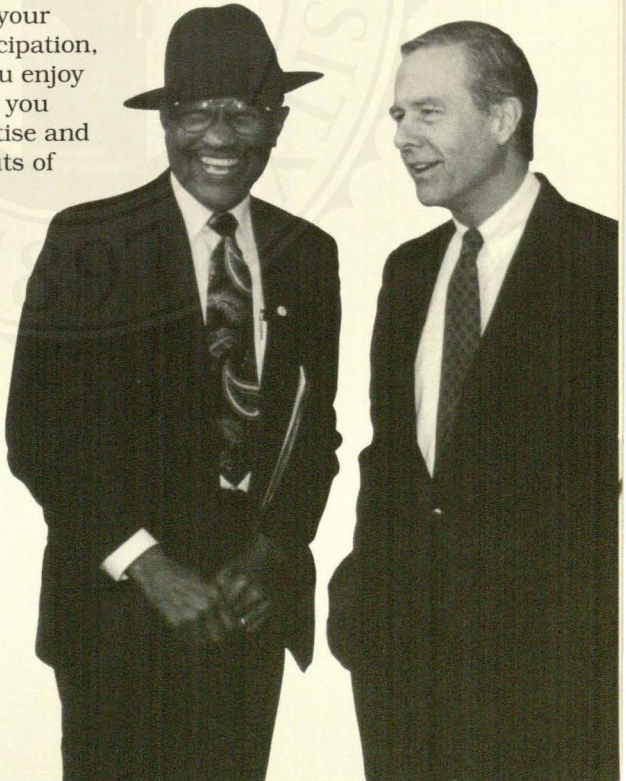
Now, as you look forward to your retirement years with great anticipation, you can pursue the activities you enjoy most. However, I'm certain that you will continue to lend your expertise and revered advice to the ins-and-outs of local San Diego politics, government, and civic causes.

My friend, Gayle joins me in extending our heartfelt congratulations on reaching this important milestone. Best wishes for a healthy, happy retirement.

Sincerely,

Pete

PETE WILSON

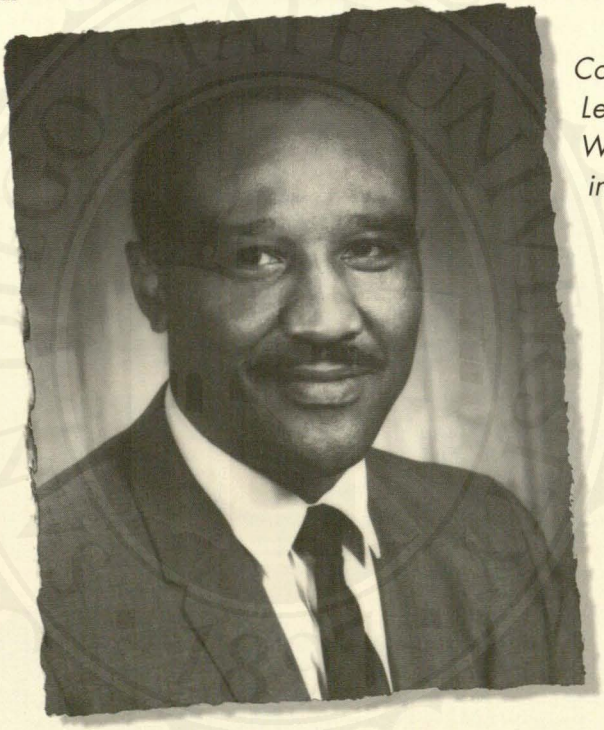


Leon Williams was a successful advocate for many improvements and expansions to public facilities, largely in the Fourth Council District communities. He helped to establish such needed recreation areas as Martin Luther Park, Lomita Park, and Paradise Hills Park. He established the Skyline Drive Sub-Station and improved police protection in his district.

He also worked for numerous street improvements, including the installation of needed traffic lights and improvement of bus and trolley services. Recognizing the need for community beautification and revitalization, Leon Williams organized projects that included the Centre City Development Corporation, Horton Plaza, and others. He initiated the Southeast Economic Development Corporation, the Dells and Market Street Industrial Parks as well as countless graffiti paint-outs, tree-plantings, and alley clean-ups.

A true advocate of the environment, Leon Williams fought for growth management and the protection of sensitive lands.

Leon Williams has been acclaimed for making the voice of the communities heard in local government. By establishing and supporting community organizations, neighborhood watches and recreation councils, he brought people together and into the decision-making process. He maintained an assertive constituent service which addressed resident's questions and requests for action on various complaints.



Councilman Leon Williams in 1969.

San Diego City Council 1969 - 1982

Leon Williams becomes a vocal advocate for the improvement and expansion of public facilities particularly in the Fourth Council District Communities.

We make a living by what we get.

We make a life by what we give.

Leon and his wife Margaret smile for the cameras after Leon is awarded Citizen of the Year *by The City Club in 1994.*

In Honor of 26 Years of Public Service

Leon is sworn in as city councilman in 1969.

Special Positions

California Constitution Revision Commission, Member

1993 President, California State Association of Counties

National Association of Counties, Board of Directors

Chairman, Metropolitan Transit Development Board

Co-Chair, City-County Reinvestment Task Force

Chairman, Services Authority for Freeway Emergencies

1994 Chairman, San Diego Consortium and Private Industry Council Policy Board

California Coastal Commission, Southern California Representative

Career Milestones

- Martin Luther King Park established in 4th district.
- Inclusion of community planning groups in land-use decision-making.
- Solidified city's role in downtown redevelopment program.
- Commission on Children and Youth created.
- County-wide Prevention Policy initiates long-term solutions.
- County Human Relations Commission and Hate Crimes Registry created.
- County Commission on Health Care Reform established.
- Installation of Freeway Callbox System.
- County Charter changed to increase government accountability and promote Supervisory cooperation.
- Financial institutions required to reinvest in low and moderate income communities.
- Founded Household Hazardous Waste Program.
- Instrumental in founding County's Trauma System, now a model for systems nationwide.

Leon and other officials inspect the new call box system.

Leon with some of the members of his County Supervisor staff: *(left to right) Jimmie Slack, John Miller, Isabelle Perez, Barbara Terry, Colleen Kelly, Benelia Hunter, Leon, Hervadine Herbin, Margaret Williams, Adrienne Brodeur.*

As County Supervisor, Leon Williams continued his advocacy of public participation in government. In twelve years at County government his list of accomplishments has become considerable.

His County-wide Prevention Policy focuses on long term strategies for reducing crime, gangs, substance abuse, preventable health care costs, and welfare dependency. Programs include perinatal, child care, gang prevention, teen fathers, teen mothers, and others.

To help rebuild low-income areas, Leon Williams led efforts to require financial institutions to reinvest in these communities in the form of small business and home-ownership loans. Now banks like First Interstate, Bank of America, Wells Fargo, Union Bank, and Great Western Bank have adopted reinvestment strategies.

In an effort to keep San Diego's growth focused, Leon Williams established the Regional Growth and Planning Review Task Force. Comprised of San Diego County land use experts, community leaders and environmentalists, they conducted the first comprehensive analysis of county-wide growth management policies.

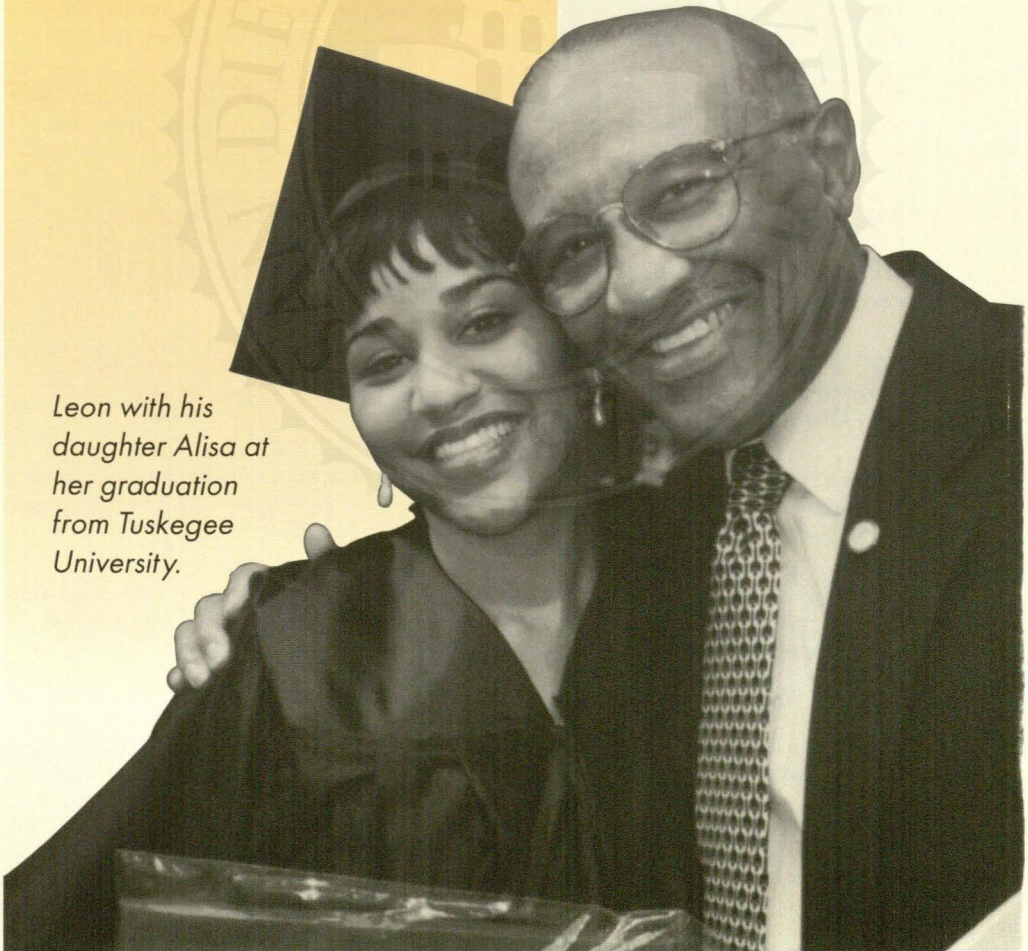
Always seeking non-violent solutions to tensions between different groups, Leon Williams won Board approval for the County Human Relations Commission and created the first Hate Crimes Registry in 1989.

To improve health-care access and reduce costs, Leon Williams established the County's Commission on Health Care Reform.

San Diego County Supervisor 1983 - 1994

Leon Williams becomes known as a progressive voice for public participation in government with an increased focus on human issues.

Children are always the only future of the human race... teach them well.



Leon with his daughter Alisa at her graduation from Tuskegee University.

County of San Diego
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Chairwoman Dianne Jacob, and Vice Chairman Ron Roberts, of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors

Dear Leon:

On behalf of the residents of San Diego County we offer our thanks and congratulations for your twelve years of dedicated service as a member of the County Board of Supervisors.

Your efforts to develop a county-wide prevention program, which reduces substance abuse by addressing health care, welfare dependency, perinatal, child care, and teenage pregnancy problems has created a model for long-term solutions to our problems.

Your advocacy for reinvestment in moderate and low-income communities through small business and home loans has brought back investment capital from major financial institutions into our older neighborhoods.

Your leadership in regional growth management brought together land use experts, community leaders and environmentalists from throughout the county for the first time to analyze countywide growth policies.

You authored the ordinance creating the County Human Relations Commission and the first Hate Crimes Registry to ease tensions and strengthen the bonds of respect and understanding which hold our diverse community together.

And, you have been a leader in efforts to reform the county's health care delivery system to improve access and affordability of health care for all San Diegans.

Throughout your years of service to this Board and the community, you have earned the respect and admiration of your colleagues and constituents for your integrity, vision, compassion and goodwill.

Although County government will be poorer for your absence, we trust the San Diego community will continue to benefit from your experience and involvement in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Dianne Jacob

DIANNE JACOB
Chair

Ron Roberts

RON ROBERTS
Vice Chair

LEON L. WILLIAMS
FOUNDATION

Mission Statement

The Leon L. Williams Foundation's mission is embodied in the organization's commitment to assist in strengthening the quality of life of children, youth and families by:

Expanding the effective participation of our youth in activities designed to enhance their educational goals;

Improving their social skills;

Identifying and nurturing entrepreneurial skills and other skills conducive to positive contributions to society; and

Promoting and advocating for cooperative and collaborative efforts between communities, government and private-sector entities.

All proceeds will benefit the Leon L. Williams Foundation.
Proceeds are tax deductible. Federal ID #330645756

City Of San Diego
MAYOR'S OFFICE

Dear Leon:

Your twenty-six years of public service to the citizens of San Diego stands as a testament to your dedication and commitment to our community.

In your fourteen years on the San Diego City Council you were a leader in our city's landmark efforts to intelligently manage growth and expand the role of communities in the land use decision-making process.

You were then, and have continued to be, a forceful advocate for the interests of the people in our community, for needed public facilities improvements, recreation programs, expanded transportation services, health care, and improved public safety.

You have been a leader in the fight for equal opportunity and respect for human dignity and diversity.

On a personal note, I've known you as a friend and colleague on both the Council and the Board for 15 years. In good times and in bad you have been a mentor and a friend to several generations of San Diego's political leaders. During that time, you have always conducted yourself in a manner which brings great distinction to all those who serve in elective office.

On behalf of all San Diegans, thank you Leon for making this a better, healthier, more humane community in which to live.

Sincerely,

SUSAN GOLDING
Mayor

San Diego Mayor, Susan Golding